

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 COA-01 DLOS-05 L-02 PM-03

NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 AID-05 /083 W

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R 052145Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9540

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0930

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ETRD, EWWT, CS

SUBJECT: SHIPPING: PROPOSED LATIN AMERICAN-CARIBBEAN
SHIPPING VENTURE

REF: SAN JOSE 778; MEXICO 1909

1. THE MARCH 4 ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT-ORIENTED DAILY, EXCELSIOR, CARRIED AN ITEM ON THE RETURN OF THE HEAD OF THE COSTA RICAN EXPORT PROMOTION CENTER, ENRIQUE GONZALEZ, FROM HIS TRIP TO CUBA. ACCORDING TO THE ACCOUNT, CUBAN PRIME MINISTER CASTRO, AS WELL AS CUBAN DIPLOMATS AND PORT AUTHORITIES, WERE HIGHLY UNCLASSIFIED

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PLEASED WITH THE EFFORTS BEING MADE TO ESTABLISH A STATE-

OWNED REGIONAL SHIPPING FLEET. CASTRO IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THIS EFFORT WILL ASSIST IN CREATING THE CLOSE COMMERCIAL TIES THAT SHOULD BE NATURE EXIST BETWEEN THE COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN BUT WHICH, FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS AND A VARIETY OF REASONS, HAVE NOT BEEN ACHIEVED.

2. REPORTEDLY, CUBA HAS OFFERED TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THE CREATION OF THE NEW FLEET. GONZALEZ IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT QUOTE CUBA REPRESENTS THE THIRD MOST IMPORTANT SHIPPING POWER IN OUR CONTINENT AND MAY BECOME FIRST IN IMPORTANCE IN 1976 BY MOVING A MILLION TONS ANNUALLY END QUOTE.

3. GONZALEZ REPORTEDLY ESTIMATES THE VALUE OF CARIBBEAN TRADE AT 15 BILLION COLONES A YEAR, SOME 1.7 BILLION DOLLARS, AND THE SIZE OF THE REGION'S POPULATION AS BEING 125 MILLION PEOPLE. HE BELIEVES THAT THE REGION REPRESENTS AN EXCELLENT POTENTIAL MARKET FOR COSTA RICA AND THAT THE CREATION OF THE NEW FLEET WILL OPEN UP NEW AVENUES FOR COSTA RICAN EXPORTS, ENABLING COSTA RICA TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A 50 PERCENT UNUTILIZED INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY.

4. INTERESTED GOVERNMENTS ARE DUE TO MEET IN MEXICO ON APRIL 15, 16 AND 17 TO DRAW UP A WORKING DOCUMENT TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE FOUNDING MEETING OF THE FLEET SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN SAN JOSE ON MAY 6, 7 AND 8. THE NEWS ACCOUNT DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER CUBA INTENDS TO ATTEND EITHER OF THESE MEETINGS.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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